(b) The NHRC had taken cognizance of a complaint alleging human rights violation in an incident of killing of a persons in the Batla House encounter on 1.1.2001. The matter was however, closed by the Commission on 30.5.2001 after considering a report in this regard.

(c) and (d) The NHRC had made some suggestions for amending the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The proposed amendments relate to structure and powers of the Commission, constitution of State Human Rights Commission, transfer of complaints/inquiries to State Commission etc. These suggestions are being examined by the Government.

Making North-Eastern Council a functional body

3246. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to convert the North-Eastern Council as a functional body instead of advisory one;

(b) whether it is a fact that the NEC has taken up works which are not of regional interest; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir. However, NEC (Amendment) Bill, 1998 in the modified form intends to make NEC more effective.

(b) Yes, Sir. NEC has taken up some projects which are not of regional nature.

(c) The decision has been taken by the Council.

Arrival of refugees in India

†3247. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the country-wise details regarding the number of refugees arrived in India;

(b) the amount spent by India on refugees during the last decade;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether financial assistance from UNICEF or other organisations for helping the refugees have been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to repatriate the refugees from India alongwith the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The powers of the Central Government under the Passport (entry into India) Act, 1920, Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and the Foreigners Act, 1946 have been entrusted to the State Government and the Union Territory Administrations with their prior consultation, under Article 258 and 239 respectively of the Constitution. As such, no data regarding refugees from different countries is Centrally maintained. However, some Srilankans and Tibetans numbering 65,000 and 1,08,000 respectively in India are given some assistance from the Central Government. A total number of 2,78,295 Srilankan refugees have arrived in India during the period July, 1983 to July, 2001 due to ethnic problems in Sri Lanka. About one lakh Srinlankan refugees have been repatriated. The remaining refugees have left on their own. At present about 64,500 Srilankan refugees are accommodated in 116 Camps in Tamil Nadu and one Camp in Malkangiri, Orissa. About 1,08,000 Tibetans are also living in India.

(b) The approximate amount spent by the Central Government so far on such assistance from 1983 amounted to Rs. 229.36 crore till March, 2000. Rupees 25 crore has been provided for this purpose for the year 2000-2001. Similarly, Government of India has spent an amount of Rs. 18.12 crore approximately upto 31.3.2001 on Tibetan refugees. This excludes the amount incurred by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on the education of children of Tibetans.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As far as possible, every effort is being made to repatriate the refugees. About 1 lakh Srilankan refugees out of 2,78,295 have been repatriated. The remaining refugees have left on their own. The influx of Srilankan refugees is generally being discouraged. The inflow of Srilankan refugees upto July of this year is only 348 as against 4977 in the year 1999 and 1620 in 2000.